

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7935

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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FOR EA FROM SMITH

USIA FOR IOP/ISS/IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OVIP OREP SOPN US VN

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION: GUIDANCE FOR USIA MEDIA

1. FOLLOWING IS BASIC GUIDANCE FOR USE BY USIA MEDIA
IN COMMENTING ON WOODCOCK'S COMMISSION'S VISIT TO VIETNAM.
CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH HIGH AND WORKING LEVEL SRV
OFFICIALS, PRIMARILY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, CONFIRM OUR
VIEW THAT VOA IN VIETNAMESE AND ENGLISH IS CAREFULLY
MONITORED IN HANOI. OFFICIALS WITH WHOM I SPOKE WERE
THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH VOA BROADCAST SCHEDULES AND
OBVIOUSLY LISTEN TO IT TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE ON AMERICAN
POLICY. AS HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED, THIS IS ALSO
TRUE WITH REGARD TO SRV MONITORING OF WIRELESS FILE.
SUGGEST COMMENTARIES ON BOTH, EARLY IN WEEK, TO
CONTINUE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY COMMISSION VISIT.
WOODCOCK, ROSENTHAL CONCUR.

2. THE COMMISSION WENT TO HANOI TO SEEK INFORMATION
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ON MIAS AND TO EXPRESS THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN
IMPROVING RELATIONS.

3. AFTER DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AND HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS
THE COMMISSION MEMBERS BELIEVE A SUBSTANTIAL START
TOWARDS ACHIEVING AN HONORABLE SOLUTION TO THE MIA
ISSUE HAS BEEN GAINED. IN ADDITION TO THE TURNOVER OF

THE REMAINS OF TWELVE AMERICAN FLYERS THE VISIT
RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT WHEREBY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON
MIAS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AND EVALUATED AS APRT OF
A PROCESS WHICH COULD LEAD TO AN HONORABLE
RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE.

4. THE COMMISSION LISTENED TO THE VIEWS OF THE VIET-
NAMESE ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO IT, INCLUDING THE
QUESTION OF POSTWAR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S.

5. THE VIEWS OF PRESIDENT CARTER ON IMPROVING RELA-
TIONS WERE COMMUNICATED TO THE TOP-LEVELS OF VIETNAMESE
LEADERSHIP AND PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO GAIN
THEIR FIRST CONTACT WITH THE STYLE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE
NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES.

6. THE VISIT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS THE START OF A PROCESS,
TAKEN AT U.S. INITIATIVE, WHICH COULD LEAD TO NORMALIZ-
ING RELATIONS. WHILE OBSTACLES REMAIN, RESULTS OF THE
VISIT WERE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE. THE ATMOSPHERE
AT MEETINGS WAS REALISTIC AND FORWARD-LOOKING.

7. THE SERIOUSNESS AND IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S
WORK CAN BE SEEN IN ITS SCHEDULE MEETINGS WITH THE
PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITHIN ONLY A FEW
DAYS OF ITS PLANNED RETURN. THE COMMISSION WILL REPORT
ITS OBSERVATIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT SO THAT THE
PRESIDENT CAN HAVE THE BENEFIT OF ITS VIEWS IN DECIDING
UPON FUTURE POLICY.

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8. THE COMMISSION BELIEVES ITS WORK CAN BE AN IMPORTANT
FACTOR IN HELPING SHAPE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S
POSITIVE CONCERN FOR THE STABILITY AND PEACEFUL DEVELOP-
MENT OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION.

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